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Guatemala 54-55

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

ARA

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April 20, 1954

TO: The Acting Secretary

THROUGH: S/S

FROM: ARA - Mr. Holland

SUBJECT: Possible Congressional Inquiry into Communism in Guatemala

Discussion:

Representative Charles J. Kersten (R., Wisconsin) has suggested to General Cutler of the NSC the possibility of a Congressional inquiry by his House Select Committee on Communist Aggression, into Communism in Guatemala. Mr. Kersten states that his Committee cannot undertake this inquiry until after they visit Europe in June, but a newspaper man, Mr. Pat McMahon, has prepared for him a proposed press release which Mr. Kersten implies he might wish to issue in the near future. The text of the proposed press release is attached to his letter of April 15 to General Cutler (Tab A).

Recommendation:

That you request General Cutler to inform Representative Kersten that a Congressional inquiry of the nature he suggests might prove to be a very useful 'sounding board' for public dissemination of information concerning Communism in Guatemala. Since however, the Committee cannot undertake the inquiry until after June, and since there are possibilities of new developments in the Guatemalan situation between now and the end of June, we would appreciate it if Mr. Kersten would defer any announcement with respect to a possible inquiry until we can review the situation with him just before his Committee departs for Europe.

DJHolland 2/9/82

ARA:AWoodward:ee

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